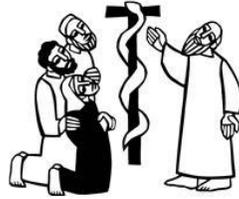


St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
229 South Broad Street  
Jersey Shore, PA 17740  
570-398-1676

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent  
Healing Service



**Children's Church will meet upstairs in the youth Sunday School room at end of the hallway at 9:30 a.m. Please take your child there before worship begins.**

### **Introduction to the day**

*The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.*

### **SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

### **Prelude**

*The assembly stands*

### **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who writes the law on our hearts,  
who draws all people together through Jesus.

**Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin  
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors  
are hungry and cold.**

**We speak in ways that silence others.**

**We are silent when we should speak up.**

**We keep score in our hearts.**

**We let hurts grow into hatred.**

**For all these things and for sins only you know,  
forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:  
Out of love for the whole world,  
God draws near to us,  
breaks every snare of sin,  
washes away our wrongs,  
and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG:** *Give to Our God Immortal Praise! 848*

**GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also, with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

L: A reading from Numbers

**FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9**

*Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.*

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Let us read responsively by verse the Psalm.

**Psalm: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22**

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,  
for God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

<sup>3</sup>gathering them in from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

<sup>17</sup>**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;  
through their sins they were afflicted.**

<sup>18</sup>They loathed all manner of food  
and drew near to death's door.

<sup>19</sup>**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD  
and you delivered them from their distress.**

<sup>20</sup>You sent forth your word and healed them  
and rescued them from the grave.

<sup>21</sup>**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love  
and your wonderful works for all people.**

<sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

L: A reading from Ephesians.

### **Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10**

*While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.*

<sup>1</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

### **Gospel Acclamation p.142**

*Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,  
Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding instead fast love.*

P: The holy gospel according to St. John the third chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: John 3:14-21**

*To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>14</sup>“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON**

*The assembly stands.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: We Pray for Peace**

The tune of FINLANDIA 11.10.11.10.11.10 (“This Is My Song”)

**We pray for peace, O God of love and justice,  
as once again, we face a time of war.**

**The meek and humble try — amid the crisis —  
to love and build, to nurture and restore.**

**May leaders hear the truth the prophets teach us —  
that gifts of peace are well worth struggling for.**

**We pray for peace, O Christ who calmed the waters —  
who stilled the storm, who stilled disciples' fear.**

**You spoke with love and with amazing power;  
be with us now when trouble is so near.**

**May leaders see the miracle you offer —  
that words and deeds can calm the nations here.**

**We pray for peace, O Spirit here among us;  
your love emboldens, judges, and restrains.**

**Take any hate and acts of impulse from us;  
make leaders wise, amid competing claims.**

**May we seek peace, O God of love and justice;  
may love and mercy be our highest aims.**

*Tune: Jean Sibelius, 1899 (“This Is My Song”) (MIDI) Text: Copyright © 2022 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Permission is given for free use of this hymn, including online, by churches that support*

*Sojourners. See Rev. Casey Carbone sing "We Pray for Peace." Carbone is pastor of The First Presbyterian Church of Mahopac, N.Y.,*

## **HEALING SERVICE**

P: Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing—with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: Let us pray.

Loving God, our source and our final home,  
we give you thanks for the gifts of life on earth,  
for our human bodies and all you have created.

In your great mercy, **C: hear us, O God.**

A: Merciful God, by the wounds of your Son we are healed.

Bring your saving health to all people.

In your great mercy, **C: hear us, O God.**

A: Holy God,

your Spirit came upon us in the waters of baptism  
and brought us into the communion of saints.

Renew in us the grace of baptism,  
by which we share in Christ's death and resurrection.

In your great mercy, **C: hear us, O God.**

A: Mighty God,

your Son Jesus brought healing and wholeness to all.

Bring your healing presence now to all who are sick or in pain.

Grant hope to all who are discouraged or in despair.

In your great mercy, **C: hear us, O God.**

A: Compassionate God, the strength of those who suffer,  
bring hope and peace to all who are in mental, physical, or spiritual distress.

In your great mercy, **C: hear us, O God.**

A: Almighty God, source of human knowledge,

give skill, wisdom, and compassion

to all who provide medical care.

In your great mercy, **C: hear us, O God.**

A: Loving God, our creator and redeemer,  
give gentleness and courage to family members, friends,  
and caregivers of those who suffer.

In your great mercy, **C: hear us, O God.**

A: God of the prophets, of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, of Miriam, Deborah, and Anna, you call us to live lives of justice, freedom, and peace. Bless the work of advocacy groups like Lutheran World Federation which seek to bring justice where there is unfairness, freedom where there is slavery, and peace where there is war.

In your great mercy, **C: hear us, O God.**

*Other petitions may be offered, including particular needs and requests for healing.*

P: God of great and abundant mercy,  
with your presence sustain all for whom we pray.  
Drive away their suffering, give them firm hope,  
and strengthen their trust in you;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **LAYING ON OF HANDS**

*The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.*

Sisters and brothers, I invite you to come and receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

*Those who wish to receive laying on of hands (and anointing) approach and, as conditions permit, they may kneel.*

*The minister lays both hands on each person's head and may use one of these forms or similar words. The minister may also anoint the person's forehead with oil, making the sign of the cross.*

In the name of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
be strengthened and filled with God's grace,  
that you may know the healing power of the Spirit.  
**Amen.**

*After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands, and the presiding minister continues.*

Let us pray.

Living God, through the laying on of hands [and anointing],  
grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing.  
When they are afraid, give them courage;  
when afflicted, give them patience;  
when dejected, give them hope;  
and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

*The presiding minister concludes the order for healing.*

Almighty God, who is a strong tower to all, to whom all things in heaven and on earth bow and obey, be now and evermore your sure defense, and help you to know that the name given to us for health and salvation is the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

### **CHOIR ANTHEM *By Grace You Have Been Saved***

### **A TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION**

*The assembly stands.*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Jesus, you are the bread of life  
and the host of this meal.  
Bless these gifts that we have gathered  
that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food  
but with hunger for justice and peace.  
We pray this in your name. **Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING P.144** (*in the beginning of the hymnal*)

**Dialogue**

**Preface by the Pastor**

**Holy Holy Holy p. 144**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**Words of Institution**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER P 145** (*in the beginning of the hymnal*)

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

**COMMUNION**

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond* **Amen.**

**Communion Song** *Lamb of God p. 146*

**SONG AFTER COMMUNION**

***Jesus, Remember Me***

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

*The assembly stands.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Generous God,

at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,

now make us one loaf to feed the world;

in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING**

Beloved, we are God's own people,

holy, washed, renewed.

God bless you and keep you,

shower you with mercy,

fill you with courage,

and ✚ give you peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG: *Healer of Our Every Ill* 612**

**DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Announcements**

We welcome our visitors and ask that you sign a Visitor Attendance and Holy Communion Card that is located in the pew rack. We ask that cards be returned via the offering plate during the receiving of the offering. We practice “open Communion” here at St. John meaning that all who believe in the “real presence” of Christ are welcomed to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We offer two choices for Holy Communion, wine or grape juice. Those worshipers desiring grape juice are asked at the communion rail to place their right hand over their heart after receiving “The Body of Christ.”

**Remember in prayer:** Rowan Aldridge, Jim Allen, Connie Barker, Danny Bennett, Maisy Boyles, Agnes Cryder, Don Delaney, Helen Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Joanne Fisher, Dawn Fryer, Margaret Gohl, Dawn Hauser, Dean Hoffman, Myrtle Long, Cabe and Cambell McCracken and their parents Crae and Megan, Mick Miller, Clair Myers, Penny Parks-Dean, Cora Pelletier, Pam Shuler, John Truax, and all of our shut-ins.

We also remember in prayer Family Promise; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Rev. Michael Burk Presiding Bishop Pro Temp --ELCA; Bishop Craig A. Miller - USS; for our Companion Synods in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany, and for peace in Ukraine and Israel.

We pray for the safety of our military troops around the world including Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jade Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Trevor and Nehemiah Eberhart, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O’Neal, Adam Shaffer, Jeremy and Haley Naugle Sorrell, Rich Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Kevin Titus, and Jenna White. We also lift up in prayer their families who strive to keep a normalcy in the family and continue on often with added stress.

Special thanks to this weeks’ helpers: Lector –Darlene Bilby; Assisting Ministers --Ken Dougherty and Bill Ely; Head Usher –Jim Ely; Teller–Mike Aldridge; Bulletin Sponsor-- Cindy and Bill Ferguson and Agnes Cryder; Children's Church--Pam Wehler.

Next to this week’s helpers: Lector –Shane Snyder; Assisting Ministers--Karen Aucker and Gary Johnson; Head Usher –Jim Ely; Teller–Mike Aldridge; Bulletin Sponsor--Cindy and Bill Ferguson and Agnes Cryder; Children's Church --Cathy Eisner; Flowers --.

This week's flowers are to the glory of God and in memory of Candy Welshans by Ivey Welshans.

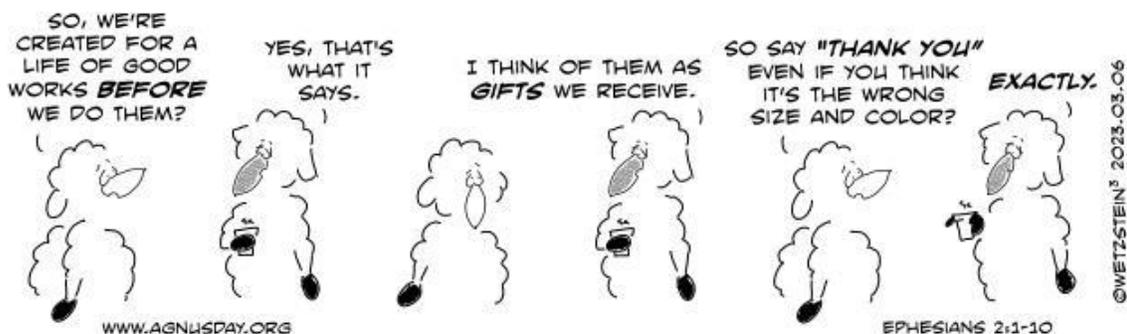
Last week's flowers were in Memory of Bethany by the Wehlers.

The Sanctuary Candle in March is in honor of Pastor and Karen Aucker by Bill and Cindy Ferguson.

Anyone interested in joining a texting prayer chain please text Christine Barner at 570-360-0178. This texting chain will send out the prayers that are received for the calling prayer chain. This chain is a one-way chain, please do not "reply" when you receive a message.

The Lutheran Church Women's **Prayer Chain** is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran. Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons  
Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597     Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852.

**Donations of Easter Candy** is needed for the Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, March 30 at 11 a.m. Please bring the candy to the office by March 24.



### Calendar

Sunday, March 10, 2024    Lent 4 Healing Service  
8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Children's Church  
10:30 a.m. Choir rehearsal  
2:00 p.m. Catechism

Monday, March 11, 2024    10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Wednesday, March 13, 2024    7:00 p.m. Lent 4 at St John

Sunday, March 17, 2024 Lent 3  
8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Children's Church  
10:30 Choir rehearsal

### Lent/Easter Dates

March 13, Lent 4 at St. John Lutheran at 7:00 pm  
March 20, Lent 5 at Garman Lutheran at 7:00 pm  
March 24, Sunday of the Passion, Reading Passion of St. Mark, 9:30 am  
volunteer readers needed. Sign-up sheet on the tower bulletin board  
March 28, Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm  
March 29, Good Friday, St. James, 7:00 pm  
March 30, Holy Saturday Easter Egg Hunt, 11:00 am  
March 31, Resurrection of Our Lord, 6:00 am and 9:30 am  
April 7, Holy Humor Sunday, 9:30 am